

## Purim Part 1:

- The authorship of this book is unknown. It must have been obviously written after the death of Ahasuerus (the Xerxes of the Greeks), which took place B.C. 465. The minute and particular account also given of many historical details makes it probable that the writer was contemporary with Mordecai and Esther. Hence we may conclude that the book was written probably about B.C. 444-434, and that the author was one of the Jews of the dispersion. This book is more purely historical than any other book of Scripture; and it has this remarkable peculiarity that the name of God does not occur in it from first to last in any form. It has, however, been well observed that "though the name of God be not in it, his finger is." The book wonderfully exhibits the providential government of God. By: M.G. Easton M.A., D.D., Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Third Edition
- Since Purim is a national holiday and is not listed as a holy day in Leviticus 23 or elsewhere, it is not a biblically required observation for those in the Church of God. As Esther 9:27-28 points out it was a Jewish invention for Jews.

### 1. Esther 1

- Verses 1-2=At this time you have Israelites scattered from India to Sub-Saharan Africa. Ahasuerus--It is now generally agreed among learned men that the Ahasuerus mentioned in this episode is the Xerxes who figures in Grecian history.)
- Susa (/ˈsuːsə/; Persian: Šuš; [ʃuʃ]; Hebrew: שׁוּשָׁן Šušān; Greek: Σουσά [ˈsuːsa]; Syriac: ܫܘܫ Šuš; Middle Persian: 𐭮𐭥𐭥 Sūš, 𐭮𐭥𐭥 Šūs; Old Persian: 𐎧𐎺𐎠 Čūšā) was an ancient city of the Proto-Elamite, Elamite, First Persian Empire, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian empires of Iran, and one of the most important cities of the Ancient Near East. It is located in the lower Zagros Mountains about 250 km (160 mi) east of the Tigris River, between the Karkheh and Dez Rivers. The site now "consists of three gigantic mounds, occupying an area of about one square kilometer, known as the Apadana mound, the Acropolis mound, and the Ville Royale (royal town) mound." The modern Iranian town of Shush is located on the site of ancient Susa. Shush is identified as Shushan, mentioned in the Book of Esther and other Biblical books.
- Susa III (3100–2700 BCE) is also known as the 'Proto-Elamite' period. At this time, Banesh period pottery is predominant. This is also when the Proto-Elamite tablets first appear in the record. Subsequently, Susa became the centre of Elam civilization. In the Sumerian period, Susa was the capital of a state called Susiana (Šušān), which occupied approximately the same territory of modern Khūzestān Province centered on the Karun River. Control of Susiana shifted between Elam, Sumer, and Akkad. Susiana is sometimes mistaken as synonymous with Elam but, according to F. Vallat, it was a distinct cultural and political entity. During the Elamite monarch, many riches and materials were brought to Susa from the plundering of other cities. This was mainly due to the fact of Susa's location on Iran's South Eastern region, closer to the city of Babylon and cities in Mesopotamia. The use of the Elamite language as an administrative language was first attested in texts of ancient Ansan, Tall-e

Mal-yan, dated 1000 BCE. Previous to the era of Elamites, the Akkadian language was responsible for most or all of the text used in ancient documents. Susiana was incorporated by Sargon the Great into his Akkadian Empire in approximately 2330 BCE. Susa was the capital of an Akkadian province until ca. 2100 BCE, when its governor, Kutik-Inshushinak, rebelled and made it an independent state and a literary center. Also, he was the last from the Awan dynasty according to the Susa kinglist. He unified the neighbouring territories and became the king of Elam. He encouraged the use of the Linear Elamite script, that remains undeciphered.

The city was subsequently conquered by the neo-Sumerian Third Dynasty of Ur and held until Ur finally collapsed at the hands of the Elamites under Kindattu in ca. 2004 BCE. At this time, Susa became an Elamite capital under the Epartid dynasty. Around 1500 BCE, the Middle Elamite period began with the rise of the Anshanite dynasties. Their rule was characterized by an "Elamisation" of Susa, and the kings took the title "king of Anshan and Susa". While, previously, the Akkadian language was frequently used in inscriptions, the succeeding kings, such as the Igehalkid dynasty of c. 1400 BCE, tried to use Elamite. Thus, Elamite language and culture grew in importance in Susiana. This was also the period when the Elamite pantheon was being imposed in Susiana. This policy reached its height with the construction of the political and religious complex at Chogha Zanbil, 30 km (19 mi) south-east of Susa. In ca. 1175 BCE, the Elamites under Shutruk-Nahhunte plundered the original stele bearing the Code of Hammurabi and took it to Susa. Archeologists found it in 1901. Nebuchadnezzar I of the Babylonian empire plundered Susa around fifty years later. In 647 BCE, Neo-Assyrian king Ashurbanipal leveled the city during a war in which the people of Susa participated on the other side. A tablet unearthed in 1854 by Austen Henry Layard in Nineveh reveals Ashurbanipal as an "avenger", seeking retribution for the humiliations that the Elamites had inflicted on the Mesopotamians over the centuries: "Susa, the great holy city, abode of their gods, seat of their mysteries, I conquered. I entered its palaces, I opened their treasuries where silver and gold, goods and wealth were amassed. . . . I destroyed the ziggurat of Susa. I smashed its shining copper horns. I reduced the temples of Elam to naught; their gods and goddesses I scattered to the winds. The tombs of their ancient and recent kings I devastated, I exposed to the sun, and I carried away their bones toward the land of Ashur. I devastated the provinces of Elam and, on their lands, I sowed salt." Assyrian rule of Susa began in 647 BCE and lasted till Median capture of Susa in 617 BCE.

- Daniel 8:2



- Verses 3-10=Royal Partying
- Verses 10-12 Queen Vashti refused to obey her husband. 7 chamberlains were eunuchs entrusted over the King's harem. They could have been Israelites. Israelites have always been used as eunuchs in the east even during the Arab-Slave trade.
- 2 Kings 20:16-19
- Daniel 1:1-11
- Acts 8:26-40
- Verse 13=people could predict new moon
- Verse 14=Persian custom to have 7 counselors
- Ezra 7:11-26
- Verses 15-22= Wives obey your husbands has always been a universal ancient concept
- Colossians 3:18
- 1 Peter 3:1-7
- Ephesians 5:22-24

## 2. Esther 2

- Verse 1-4 (Time to choose a new queen)
- Verses 5-6 see bullet points below
- 2 Samuel 16:5
- 1 Samuel 9:1-2
- 2 Kings 24:6\_14-15
- 2 Chronicles 36:9-10\_20
- Verse 7=Esther slave name
- Daniel 1:6-7
- Verses 8-20=Esther chosen to be queen. She does not reveal she is a Jew. Easy to do because of other dark skinned people throughout the Kingdom. Israel does not need to announce itself or draw attention to itself.
- Verses 21-23=Mordecai rightfully snitches.
- Ecclesiastes 10:20

## 3. Esther 3

- Verses 1=Haman was an Edomite. If Saul would have obeyed Yah Israeli would not have even faced extermination here.
- 1 Samuel 15 (David could have caused Mordecai not exist by having killed his ancestor Shimei from where we read earlier about Mordecai's ancestors.)
- Genesis 36:12\_15-16
- Exodus 17:14-16
- Deuteronomy 25:19
- Verses 2-4 (Mordecai's refusal to bow went beyond civil respect. There was something idolatrous attached to bowing to Haman. This is shown by him telling them he was a Jew. Haman was an astrologer and his father's name means given to the moon. It is speculated he the designs of celestial bodies representing

various gods embroidered on his garment and to bow down to him would be in turn bowing to these gods.)

- Look up bow down in bible gateway to show civil bowing is fine.
- Exodus 20:1-6
- Daniel 6
- Verses 5-15= Haman in his wrath against Mordecai devises a plan of genocide on the Israelites. In verse 7 Haman cast Pur or lots to determine the perfect day to exterminate the Jews.)